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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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STAFF AND INMATES UNITE TO SPREAD HOLIDAY HAPPINESS TO THOSE IN NEED – ALL MONTH LONG!



(Statewide)-- While December can be a slower time in the press, we wanted to offer you a variety of pieces, each of which shows our staff or inmates going the extra mile. All ten state facilities have been busy preparing for the Holiday



Season: Inmates are refurbishing bikes for kids who otherwise would not have a gift on Christmas morning, female inmates are busy knitting stockings for domestic violence shelters and we even have staff anonymously supplying gifts for fellow staff members in need.

Below, you will find each facility and what it has planned for December. **If you want further information or would like to attend, you must give the media division a call at least 24 hours in advance so we may obtain clearance for you to enter the facility.**

Douglas

For the last six years, staff has been helping with the Angel Tree program. This year, they have 64 angels, each of which will be adopted by Douglas prison staff. Each angel is pre-designated to a child or teenager engaged in independent living from the Douglas and Bisbee area. When adopting an Angel, staff gather information about these less fortunate youth, such as age and gender, so to allow for the purchasing of an appropriate gift. The gifts are purchased, gift wrapped and then issued to the children through Child Protective Services, which includes a Christmas gift giving celebration with Santa Claus on December 15.

Eyman

Staff began a Toy Drive for under privileged children of the Coolidge Head Start program in collaboration with the Head Start Program and Wal-Mart. They will provide gifts for each of six classrooms, which house 15-20 children. Each unit was given a poster board with the

classroom information and was challenged to raise \$300.00 to support each class. Santa Claus is scheduled to deliver the gifts to the children on December 19 and each sponsored child will receive a clothing item and toy.

Globe

In addition, inmates are busy refurbishing more than 50 bikes for those less fortunate. These bikes are donated by police departments and community members, repaired and then given to children throughout the community through numerous events throughout the month.

Staff had taken on an Angel Tree project, as described above. Staff is helping collect toys/presents for needy children in the Globe area, which will then be delivered on December 15.

Perryville

Female inmates are decorating Christmas stockings to donate to local charities. All materials used to decorate the stocking are donated by the East Valley Women's League. The stockings will be stuffed with candy and donated to the New Life Shelter in Avondale.

Phoenix

Staff has adopted a Head Start Class of 21 students, ages 4 and 5, at the Wilson Elementary School. Prison staff is hosting a holiday party for the class on December 21, where Santa will hand out presents, goodies and healthy snacks. The goal is to provide each child with one toy and one set of clothing. These gifts will be given at the Head Start party on December 21.

Safford

Safford staff is providing for fellow staff who are struggling. Staff in need or who know of someone in need turn in the names, ages and sizes of the child(ren). Staff then select an angel and buy gifts anonymously. These will be presented to the children at a Christmas party, at a time to be determined.

Tucson

Staff will sponsor other staff members with children who are less fortunate and have children, such as single parents. This is the same idea as Safford outline above.

Winslow

On December 22, needy children of staff will receive gifts. Parents submit their child(ren)'s name anonymously and tags are placed on an tree. Staff will buy the gifts and bring them to the prison. All presents are collected the week prior to the big day, December 22, when the children receive their gifts.

In addition, staff receives Christmas lists from all of the foster children in Winslow. Staff draw names and purchase the gifts. The Christmas Angel program will collect all the presents by December 20 and will deliver them by December 22.

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